groups, the guilds have played a useful function. They have regulated competition and have been an agency for concerted action. It has been quite customary for a guild to institute a strike or a boycott to obtain its wishes or to enforce its objection to some governmental order. Those who carry away the night soil, for example, may cease work in protest against a police ruling, until the inconvenienced community forces an accommodation to their demand. Butchers have united against taxes, and sometimes all the merchants of a community have banded against badly controlled troops. The nation-wide boycotts by which more than once in the last few years the Chinese have expressed their indignation against the Japanese and the British have taken their rise in an old tradition of group resistance to obnoxious persons and measures. To the Chinese they are a perfectly natural way for public opinion to express itself.

Yet the guild system has also had its disadvantages. By restraining free competition it has been a brake on improvement both in machinery and in efficiency and so has prevented progress. It may in part account for the slowness of the changes in Chinese industrial life.

CHANGES IN INDUSTRY PRODUCED BY CONTACT WITH THE OCCIDENT

Whether the presence of the guild in China can be held in any degree responsible for the fact that the Industrial Revolution did not originate there but entered from the Occident must be a matter of conjecture. Whatever the reason, it was from the West, as we have seen in earlier chapters, that the innovations came. These have affected industry much more than they have agriculture. What some of them are have already been

briefly recounted. Steam-driven machinery and the factory have been introduced. As has been noted above, the manufacture of cotton has been most affected. By 1930 the amount of capital invested in cotton mills was about $300,000,000 (Chinese currency) and the number of hands employed about a quarter of a million. Cotton mills have been particularly numerous in East Central China, especially in Shanghai, where in 1928 about half the cotton spinning and weaving of China (by modern machinery) was located. In 1930 the province of Kiangsu, including Shanghai, had approxi-